[*Translation*]

Export of Leather Goods

5871 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to promoter export of leather goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of semi-finished and finished leather products exported during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f): The Government policy is to progressively displace the exports of raw materials by value-added leather products and towards this end, exported of raw hides and skins and semi-finished leather have already been banned. Export of finished leather, though allowed at present, is subject to an export duty of 10%.

Exports of leather and leather products since 1989-90 have been as follows:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

S. No.	*Item*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*	*1991-92 (Apr'91-Feb'92) (Prov.)*
1.	Semi-Finished Leather	21.06	3.97	-
2.	Finished Leather	693.53	765.62	642.44
3.	Footwear	171.43	210.44	274.60
4.	Footwear Components	518.25	609.96	870.25
5.	Leather Garments	332.88	579.20	565.33
6.	Other Leather Goods	292.88	408.62	360.25
	Total:	2030.03	2577.81	2712.87

(Source: Council for Leather Exports)

To encourage export of Leather products, Government has taken a number of promotional measures which inter-alia include:

(i) duty free import of leather in raw, semi-finished from to supplement domestic availability of leather;

(ii) import of other raw materials, consumables, accessories, chemicals and capital goods with

concessional duties;

(iii) strengthening design and development programmes;

(iv) augmenting man-power training both within the country or outside;

(v) establishing industrial estates and promoting common facility centers; and

(vi) improving quality of Indian leather products and making them more competitive in the world market.

[*English*]

Alleppy Port

5872. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to declare Alleppy Port in Kerala as a major port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the existing and proposed facilities at Cochin Port, at present it is not considered necessary to declare Alleppy Port as a major port.

Raids Conducted by Income Tax Department in Orissa

5873. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of raids conducted in Orissa by the Income Tax Department which are pending for disposal as on date;

(b) the details of seizure of immovable and movable properties in each case and value thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b): 174 assessments are pending as on date in the cases of 58 persons assessed in Orissa who were searched by the Income-tax Department. Details of assets seized are given in the statement attached.

(c) By and large, there has been no delay. In fact, in some cases, the searches were completed only some time ago. The assessments have been taken up for completion within the statutory time-limit as provided for under the Income Tax Act, 1961.